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CONTROL SYSTEM**(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 29, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PROGRAM D

SUBJECT: SR-71/OXCART Operational Options

In accordance with the actions directed in the memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated December 29, 1967, you are directed to investigate the following options concerning the phasing of the SR-71 into operations in the Far East with eventual assumption of the BLACK SHIELD mission by the SR-71:

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a. Update of current plan for phase-in of the SR-71, no overlap with the A-12.

b. Joint operation of both aircraft from Kadena, using where possible, common facilities and resources.

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c. Simultaneous operation of the A-12 and SR-71 from Kadena without use of common facilities and resources except on a non-interference basis.

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d. Operation of the SR-71 from another base in the Far East with the A-12 remaining at Kadena for a period of up to three months after the start of SR-71 operations. ?

e. *A * App 5?*
Please provide the above information not later than January 6, 1968.

Additionally, please undertake an initial study of the impact and feasibility of transferring the A-12 fleet

NRO Review Completed.

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to the Strategic Air Command on or about June 30, 1968. The latter is not required by January 6, 1968, but should be completed as soon as possible, subject to the priority of the SR-71 deployment study. This study does not reflect any directed action but is intended to explore an alternative suggested at the last EXCOM meeting.

NRO

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Alexander H. Flax

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OPTION E

Operation of both aircraft from the same base utilizing common facilities and/or operating separately. Overlap phasing of aircraft will be considered in this option.